



The
countryside
charity

Registered Office
15-21 Provost Street
London N1 7NH

Tel: 020 7981 2800
info@cpre.org.uk cpre.org.uk

Royal Patron
His Majesty The King
Chief Executive
Roger Mortlock

13 January 2025

By email to: YorksWoldsDesignationProject@naturalengland.org.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

Formal Statutory and Public Consultation on a Proposed Yorkshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

CPRE, the countryside charity, welcomes the opportunity to comment on Natural England's Formal Statutory and Public Consultation on a Proposed Yorkshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

CPRE wants a thriving, beautiful countryside for everyone and believe in countryside and green spaces that are accessible to all, rich in nature and playing a crucial role in responding to the climate emergency.

CPRE strongly supports the two areas proposed for designation including the coastal area between Flamborough Head and Reighton and the inland area near Market Weighton to the south, abutting the Howardian Hills National Landscape to the west and towards Filey to the east. We believe that these areas meet the natural beauty criteria and are also desirable to designate as England's newest National Landscape.

We support the boundary adjustments suggested by CPRE North and East Yorkshire (CPRE NEY) in their submission to this consultation. We are concerned that the majority of the Yorkshire Wolds which fall within East Yorkshire, has not been included in the boundary, including areas immortalised in art by David Hockney's 'Yorkshire Wolds Landscapes'.

CPRE NEY recommend that the Yorkshire Wolds AONB should focus on the wider Yorkshire Wolds, as identified in Natural England's National Character Area (NCA) [profile 27](#). The NCA 'forms an arc of high, gently rolling ground extending from the Humber Estuary west of Hull, to the North Sea coast at Flamborough Head, north of Bridlington. The Wolds comprise a prominent chalk escarpment and foothills rising from the Vale of York to the west and the Vale of Pickering to the north and falling to the plain of Holderness to the east.' The NCA continues 'This gently rolling landscape instils a sense of openness, escapism and tranquillity provided by the expansive views, sparse population and agriculture.'

At the very least, CPRE NEY calls for more land within the Great Wolds Valley (Area 5) following the Gypsy Race towards Wold Newton and Burton Flemming and then northwards towards Bempton to 'join' up the two parcels of proposed designated areas following the underground chalk to the coastal area and from the existing candidate (shown as Area 7) towards Rudston – all of which is currently within transition areas.

Every year, millions of people find tranquillity and inspiration in our National Landscapes. For example, the Yorkshire Wolds has exceptionally dark skies which contribute to the relative tranquillity of the area (a factor related to natural beauty). In 2016, CPRE published interactive *Night Blight* maps. These are the most detailed ever of Britain's night skies

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and are based on satellite data captured at 1.30am throughout September 2015. Maps were created for all English counties, districts, National Parks, AONBs and National Character Areas, showing the percentage of each area that falls under nine brightness categories. The mapping revealed that only 22% of England has pristine night skies, free of any light pollution. By comparison, 52.4% of the skies above the Yorkshire Wolds NCA fall in this category, with the next darkest category making this 81.9% of the area. (see Annex 1).

Based on the CPRE map of tranquillity (2006) a large proportion of the Yorkshire Wolds NCA has a strong sense of tranquillity due to its elevated views, lack of visual intrusion and sparse settlement patterns including lack of large cities and towns.

CPRE would like to take this opportunity to place on record our full support for the widest possible Yorkshire Wolds being designated as the nation's newest National Landscape. The designation of this area would help ensure that this remarkable landscape will remain protected for future generations to enjoy.

If you would like further information, please do get in touch.

Emma Marrington
Landscape Lead
CPRE, the countryside charity

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